

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1-10 (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A procedure according to claim 239 wherein the average diameter is from 50 to 100 nm.

12. (currently amended) A procedure according to claim 239, wherein crystal nuclei in an amount of 0.5 to 2 % w/w relative to the precipitated alumina hydrates and computed as Al_2O_3 are used for precipitation.

13. (currently amended) A procedure according to claim 239, wherein the crystal nuclei are ~~present prepared~~ in an aqueous, acidic solution and at least one ~~or more~~ basic aluminum salts and at least one ~~or more~~ acidic aluminum salts are jointly added.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A procedure according to claim 239, characterized in that alkali aluminates, alkaline earth ~~alkali~~ aluminates or aluminum hydroxy salts are used as the basic aluminum salts.

16. **(currently amended)** A procedure according to claim 239, characterized in that aluminum sulfate, aluminum nitrate, aluminum chloride or aluminum formate are used as the acidic aluminum salts.

17. **(currently amended)** A procedure according to claim 239, characterized in that the bulk of the alumina hydrate is precipitated at a pH value of 5 to 9.

18. **(original)** A procedure according to claim 17 wherein the pH value is from 6 to 8.

19-21. **(cancelled)**

22. **(currently amended)** A procedure according to Claim 2524, wherein the crystal nuclei are prepared in an aqueous, acidic solution and at least one ~~or more~~ basic aluminum salts and at least one ~~or more~~ acidic aluminum salts are jointly added.

23. **(New)** A procedure for manufacturing alumina hydrates such as boehmite and/or pseudo-boehmite comprising:

precipitating alumina hydrates from an aqueous medium containing nuclei for crystallization of alumina hydrates by adding to said aqueous medium a precipitant selected from the group consisting of basic aluminum salts, acidic aluminum salts and mixtures thereof, said nuclei being

present in an amount of 0.1 to 5% w/w of the precipitated alumina hydrates calculated as Al_2O_3 , said crystal nuclei having an average diameter of 20 to 150 nm.

24. (New) A procedure for manufacturing alumina hydrates such as boehmite and/or pseudo-boehmite comprising:

precipitating alumina hydrates from an aqueous medium containing nuclei for crystallization selected from the group consisting of alumina hydrates, organic polymer/oligomers and mixtures thereof by adding to said aqueous medium a precipitant selected from the group consisting of basic aluminum salts, acidic aluminum salts and mixtures thereof, wherein

- the nuclei of alumina hydrate have an average diameter of 20 to 150 nm,
- the nuclei of said organic polymers/oligomers have an average diameter of 12 to 250 nm, and
- the nuclei are present in an amount of 0.1 to 5% w/w of the precipitated alumina hydrates, calculated as Al_2O_3 .

25. (New) A procedure for manufacturing alumina hydrates such as boehmite and/or pseudo boehmite comprising:

precipitating alumina hydrates from an aqueous medium containing organic polymers/oligomers as nuclei for crystallization by adding to said aqueous medium a precipitant selected from the group consisting of basic aluminum salts, acidic aluminum salts and mixtures thereof, said nuclei being present in an amount of 0.1 to 5% w/w of the precipitated alumina hydrates, calculated as Al_2O_3 , said nuclei being of the type which form lattices in the aqueous

Appl. No.: 10/019,795
Amendment Dated: August 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006

medium and having an average diameter of 12 to 250 nm, the organic polymers/oligomers being selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acids, polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylates, polystyrenes, polyvinylacetates, polyvinylversalates, their co-polymers and mixtures thereof.